

Highlights in Idaho History

- 1805/06 Lewis & Clark explore Idaho on their journey from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean.
- 1810 Fur trading era begins with the establishment of trading posts near Bonner's Ferry and St. Anthony.
- 1848 Oregon Territory (including Idaho) established.
- 1859 Oregon becomes a state. Idaho is now part of Washington Territory.
- 1860 Mining era begins with discovery of gold at Orofino.
- 1863 Idaho Territory is established with its capital at Lewiston.
- 1865 Territorial capital is moved to Boise.
- 1877 Nez Perce Indian War fought throughout summer. Chief Joseph surrenders near Canadian border.
- 1889 Constitutional Convention convenes on July 4, with the constitution ratified by the people on November 5. Territorial Legislature establishes the University of Idaho.
- 1890 Idaho becomes the 43rd state on July 3rd.
- 1894 Congress passes Carey Act, opening the Snake River Valley to irrigation and farming.
- 1899 Gov. Steunenberg calls in federal troops to suppress riots in the Coeur d'Alene mining district.
- 1905 Construction of new Capitol building begins. Former Gov. Steunenberg assassinated in Caldwell.
- 1914 Moses Alexander is elected - the first Jewish governor in U.S. history.
- 1920 State Capitol building is completed.
- 1931 State income tax adopted.
- 1935 Sales Tax passed by Legislature, but rejected by voters. Pea picker rebellion leads to martial law in Teton County.
- 1955 Arco becomes the first city in the world to be lit by atomic power.
- 1965 Sales Tax established at 3% rate.
- 1969 Annual legislative sessions begin.
- 1976 Teton Dam collapses.
- 1989 State lottery established.
- 1990 Idaho celebrates statehood centennial.
- 2001 Legislature passes first permanent income tax rate cuts in 30 years.
- 2003 Longest legislative session in state history: 118 days.